

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

11:21 a.m.

FROM: Rio de Janeiro

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 669, September 20,

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10 p.m.

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Department Circular Telegram 465 and Embassy Telegram 507

Notwithstanding fullest front-page coverage Rio press, impact here recent Cuban developments and pertinent US and Soviet statements deadened by domestic political crisis over past few weeks. Crisis also precluded any serious discussion these events between Embassy and GOB officials. Meanwhile, however, Embassy's various approaches Foreign Office re Cuban matters--e.g. our request copy Brazilian report health conditions Cuba and our suggestion GOB representations GOC behalf Cuban political prisoners (on both which cases action promised but not yet forthcoming), our inquiry as to GOB position re entry Cuba into LAFTA, our discussions re Soviet shipments to Cuba and forthcoming informal MFM, and even question of seating Cuba at PAHO Conference which US approved--have all met with some cynical attitude revealing suspicion US intentions.

Thus far Embassy in receipt half dozen telegrams from small but vocal pro-Castro leftist student and labor groups protesting "provocations and threats North American Imperialism" against Cuba.

Editorial comment scanty. COREIO DA MANHA found on September 13 that world-wide alarm possibility US-Soviet clash unjustified and, though "two contenders" making antagonistic moves place Cuban situation to their own advantage, nobody except Fidel Castro and Cuban exiles in Miami wants war.

JORNAL DO BRASIL, which often reflects views Foreign Office, foresaw editorially September 18 that Cuban problem would risk 17th UNGA, implying this mainly due excited US public opinion,

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-2- 669, September 20, 1969 p.m. from Rio de Janeiro

shocked by spectacle massive Soviet aid but "further stirred up by candidates forthcoming congressional elections". But for Brazil, JORNAL went on, there should be "no change in position unless there be changes Cuban attitude placing in danger security other American states".

As yet, therefore, we have no clear indication change in general press reaction or in official position as result recent developments. New Foreign Minister not yet briefed on subject, has only declared general adherence previously established foreign policy. Will be able ascertain official line clearly only when he come Rio at beginning next week.

GORDON

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